

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0296

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE THE FLORENTSIYA APARTMENTS, WE THINK IT IS WORTH A TRY TO OFFER THE LEASE WITHOUT THE OFFENDING CLAUSE. A REGULAR CABLE AUTHORIZING THIS APPROACH WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. HOWEVER, SINITSIN AT MFA TOLD TOM TRACY TODAY, WHILE DISCUSSING ANOTHER MATTER, THAT THE SOVIETS WERE WAITING FOR FAVORABLE ACTION ON THEIR REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE IN NEW YORK. INCIDENTALLY, IN ADDITION TO THE MORALE PROBLEM, IT IS COSTING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WELL OVER \$1,000 A WEEK FOR THE RESIDENTIAL ROOMS AT THE MOSCOW HOTEL. THIS INCLUDES HOTEL RENT, SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES (FOR MEALS), STORAGE FOR HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS ETC. IS IT REALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SUGGEST TO VORONTSOV THAT IF THIS SITUATION PERSISTS YOU WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RECOMMEND RPT RECOMMEND A SEVERE CUTBACK ON THE SOVIETS IN NY? WE ARE NOT, AFTER ALL, ASKING FOR ANY THING THAT SMACKS OF SPECIAL FAVORS BUT ONLY TREATMENT WHICH IS ROUTINE IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD - NOT TO SPEAK OF ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

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WM RE: MANNING. THE COSTS WERE AS FOLLOWS: R51.00 TO UPGRADE HIS TICKET TO FULL FARE (HE HAD AN EXCURSION TICKET). R750.35 ROUND TRIP ECONOMY TRICKET MOSCOW/NY/ MOSCOW FOR DR. JOHNSON TO ACCOMPANY MANNING. R801.35 AT R1 - \$1.3477 EQUALS A TOTAL OF \$1,079.98.

3. REGARDING STATE 3174, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE

POSSIBILITY OF ERDA'S CANCELLING THE LOAN OF THE CRYOGENIC REFRIGERATOR TO MOSENERGO. YOU ARE OF COURSE AWARE THAT ERDA HAD AGREED IN WRITING TO THIS LOAN IN OCTOBER, 1973, AND THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT IN FOLLOWING UP SINCE THEN. WHILE WE DEFER TO ERDA'S JUDGMENT ON THE TECHNICAL MERITS OF THE LOAN AT THIS POINT, THE DEPARTMENT AND ERDA SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THE SOVIETS ALREADY HAVE THEIR NOSES OUT OF JOINT ON OUR INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF THE ENERGY JOINT COMMITTEE. UNILATERAL CANCELLATION OF THE REFRIGERATOR LOAN BEFORE RESCHEDULING A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WILL ALMOST ASSUREDLY INVITE SOVIET RETALIATION AND MAY ENDANGER THE ENTIRE ENERGY AGREEMENT. PERHAPS INSTEAD OF OUTRIGHT CANCELLATION ERDA SHOULD CONSIDER AN OFFER TO RENEGOTIATE THE LOAN ON THE BASIS OF OBTAINING A SOVIET SUPER-CONDUCTING CABLE OR ADVANCE DESIGN CRYOGENIC REFRIGERATOR, AS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE SOVIET DELEGATION VISIT TO THE U.S. IN AUGUST, 1976.

4. A CURIOUS WRINKLE HAS DEVELOPED IN THE CASE OF INVITATION REPORTEDLY ISSUED IN THE NAME OF JIMMY CARTER TO HAVE MOSCOW BAPTISTS ATTEND PRAYER BREAKFAST. WE HAVE JUST TALKED TO AP'S TOM KENT, WHO MET BAPTISTS RECENTLY AND SENT OUT STORY ABOUT INVITATION. IT APPEARS THAT AP HOME OFFICE CHECKED OUT STORY WITH "CARTER PEOPLE" WHO DENIED THAT ANY INVITATIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO MOSCOW BAPTISTS, AND EVEN DENIED THAT THERE WAS A PRAYER BREAKFAST SCHEDULED. WE NOTE THAT TWO BAPTISTS ALREADY APPLIED FOR VISAS (SEE MOSCOW 20274); ALSO THAT AP MAY CONFIDENTIAL

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COME OUT WITH STORY, ALTHOUGH HOW IT WILL BE PLAYED PROBABLY WILL DEPEND ON FURTHER CHECKS BY AP.

5. KENT TELLS US HE WAS NOT SHOWN INVITATIONS BY BAPTISTS BUT RECALLS THAT LATTER CLEARLY TALKED ABOUT "PRAYER BREAKFAST." INVITATION WAS EARLIER SHOWN TO IGOR BELOUSOVITCH, WHO ALSO REMEMBERS IT REFERRED TO "PRAYEWDBREAKFAST." HE DOES NOT RECALL EXACT WORDING, ALTHOUGH IT WAS ENGRAVED, HAD WHAT APPEARED TO BE PRESIDENTIAL SEAL, AND REFERRED TO "PRESIDENT AND MRS. JIMMY CARTER." KENT REPORTED EVERYBODY IN MOSCOW BAPTIST CHURCH IS TALKING ABOUT INVITATION WITH PRIDE.

6. STATE 3174, PARA 3 RE BRONIUS KAMINSKAS APPEARS TO BE GARBLED, OR AT LEAST WE HOPE IT IS. WE THINK THE INTENDED SENSE OF YOUR MESSAGE WAS TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION AT HAVING RESISTED INITIAL INS PRESSURE TO ASK SOVIETS WHETHER WITNESSES COULD COME TO US. IF THAT IS THE CASE, WE SHARE YOUR HAPPINESS, OTHERWISE, WE'RE IN TROUBLE. FACT IS THAT EMBASSY NOTE 1703 OF DECEMBER 7

(COPY POUCHED TO SOV) DID ASK SOVIETS TO DECIDE IN PRINCIPLE WHETHER WITNESSES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO COME TO US IN EVENT ASKED BY INS, AS WE WERE INSTRUCTED TO DO BY STATE 292958. THE QUESTION NOW IS HOW TO RESPOND, WITHOUT LENDING OURSELVES TO SOVIET PROPAGANDA THAT US IS BACKING OFF FROM CASE, SHOULD MFA PURSUE THE MATTER EITHER BY INFORMING US THAT SOVIET SIDE IS WILLING TO SEND THE WITNESSES OR BY RAISING QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH MATTER. OF COURSE, IT IS WITHIN THE REALM OF REALISTIC POSSIBILITY THAT MFA WILL FOLLOW USUAL PRACTICE OF WAITING FOR US TO MAKE ORAL OR WRITTEN FOLLOW-UPS TO AN ORIGINAL QUERY BEFORE RESPONDING.

7. WE ISSUED PRO-FORMA TCP STAMP TO ALEKSEYEVA (MRS. GROSSMAN) JANUARY 7 AND WE'LL LET YOU KNOW HER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS WHEN COMPLETED. WE ARE, OF COURSE, SENDING HER FILE, INCLUDING PETITION, TO NAPLES AND WE HAVE REQUESTED WCC TO HANDLE CASE ACCORDINGLY. TOON

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